



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 04 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway  
Chairman  
House Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Conaway:

Thank you for your May 11, 2016, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requesting information related to the agency's review of glyphosate and atrazine. Both atrazine and glyphosate are currently undergoing the agency's registration review, the mandated review of all registered pesticides at least every 15 years. As the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention at the EPA, I oversee the risk assessment process for chemicals.

On April 29, 2016, the EPA accidentally posted on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) a report titled *Glyphosate: Report of the Cancer Assessment Review Committee*. The agency also inadvertently posted documents related to the atrazine registration review case. The documents were posted as a result of a miscommunication between agency staff. Since the agency's cancer review for glyphosate and risk assessments for atrazine were still under way at the time of the release, the documents were removed from the website to avoid the impression that the agency had completed the assessments. Subsequently, on June 3, 2016, the agency completed the draft atrazine ecological risk assessment and is currently seeking public comment. The comment period closes October 4, 2016. The agency anticipates releasing the final atrazine risk assessment in 2017.

As the agency has publicly stated since last fall, we are reviewing the evidence for carcinogenicity of glyphosate as part of the registration review process. This effort includes a weight-of-evidence evaluation of data from animal toxicity, genotoxicity and epidemiological studies submitted to the agency under 40 CFR Part 158 Toxicology Data Requirements and studies obtained from a systematic review of the literature. The CARC document is one piece of information that the agency is using to inform the cancer classification for glyphosate. The agency is also receiving input from experts at the EPA and across the government, and will get further input from the peer-review process and a public comment period. The cancer assessment will be completed by the end of 2016. During registration review, the agency also plans to consider updates to the Agricultural Health Study glyphosate cohort as well as glyphosate monitoring data being collected by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Agriculture.

In conducting a pesticide's registration review, the EPA reviews available data and information. During this case development, the EPA assesses changes since the pesticide's last review, conducts new assessments as needed, includes public participation and consults with our regulatory partners. The EPA

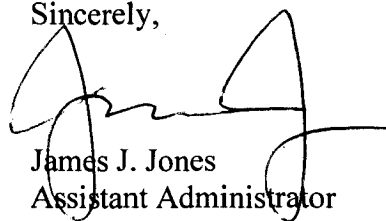
initiates a registration review for a pesticide by establishing a public docket and opening the docket for public comment. The docket contains a Preliminary Work Plan summarizing information the EPA has on the pesticide and the anticipated path forward. We publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing the availability of the docket and provide the public with a comment period of at least 60 days. Anyone may submit data or information to the public docket. We consider the information received during the comment period and develop a Final Work Plan. The registration review docket for each case remains publicly accessible throughout the process, until all actions required in the final decision have been completed.

After developing the case, we make our proposed registration review decision. The EPA publishes a *Federal Register* notice announcing the availability of a proposed decision and provides the public with a comment period of at least 60 days. The proposed decision and supporting information are available in the docket. After considering any comments concerning the proposed decision, the EPA issues a registration review decision, including an explanation of any changes to the proposed decision as well as responses to significant comments. We publish a *Federal Register* notice announcing the availability of this decision. If the pesticide manufacturer fails to take action required in a registration review decision, the EPA may take appropriate legal action. The EPA may issue, when appropriate, an interim registration review decision before completing a registration review.

The docket plays an integral role during many stages of the registration review process, e.g., when a registration review case is first opened, when risk assessments are posted for public comment and when the agency makes a final decision. At each step in the process documents are posted to the docket once the docket manager receives authorization from the review manager. We rely on the docket to release information about the chemical as well as engage the public and receive feedback. The docket is an important tool used in registration review and the EPA is committed to making sure that the docket process is as seamless as possible and that information is released at the appropriate time. The agency is currently reviewing our standard operating procedures to avoid the inadvertent release of pre-decisional information in the future.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov](mailto:kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov) or (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

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James J. Jones  
Assistant Administrator



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 04 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Davis:

Thank you for your May 11, 2016, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requesting information related to the agency's review of glyphosate and atrazine. Both atrazine and glyphosate are currently undergoing the agency's registration review, the mandated review of all registered pesticides at least every 15 years. As the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention at the EPA, I oversee the risk assessment process for chemicals.

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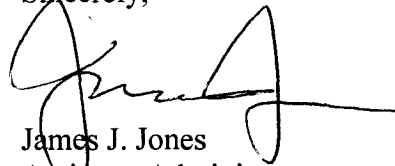
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James J. Jones  
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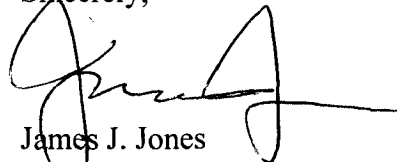
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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AUG 04 2016

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY  
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

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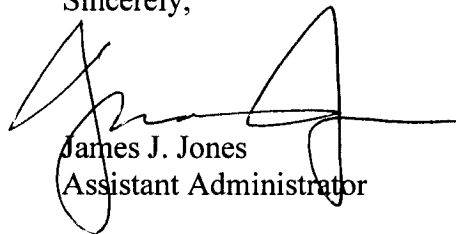
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